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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164033
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 /025 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:FJTATU
APPROVED BY:IO/SA:EMICHAL
EA/ANZ:BENNET
----------063120 281938Z /50
R 280146Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8043

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FOLLOWING REPEAT WELLINGTON 03322 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF WASHDC, CANBERRA, AND JAKARTA DATED JUNE 26, 1978.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 03322

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, ID, NZ
SUBJECT: INQUIRY REGARDING ROLE OF U.S. MILITARY IN
- INDONESIA

1. FAR LEFT-WING PRESIDENT OF WELLINGTON TRADES COUNCIL (PAT KELLY) TELEPHONED LABATT JUNE 22 TO ADVISE THAT HE AND THE COUNCIL WERE "REGARDING WITH CONCERN" A REPORT, FROM A "CONTACT" IN EAST TIMOR, CONCERNING ALLEGED PARTICIPATION OF "AMERICAN PILOTS" IN RENEWED FIGHTING IN EAST TIMOR. KELLY ELABORATED THAT THE "AMERICAN PILOTS" ARE REPORTEDLY FLYING BRONCO AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF INDONESIAN GROUND FORCES. IN ADDITION, HE SAID FRETELIN WAS REPORTING "FIGHTING OF AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS ALONGSIDE INDONESIAN TROOPS IN THREE AREAS EAST OF DILI."
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2. KELLY ASKED FOR AN EMBASSY RESPONSE TO THE CHARGES.

3. RADIO NZ CORRESPONDENT ADVISED LABATT SAME DAY THAT NZPA WIRE SERVICE WAS ALSO CARRYING THE FRETELIN ALLEGATION AND HAD BEEN ASKED BY LOCAL EAST TIMORESE LOBBYING GROUP TO BROADCAST THE REPORT. RADIO NZ

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REFUSED BECAUSE OF LACK OF CORROBORATION. CORRES-
PONDENT SIMILARLY ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD A COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE RESPONSE, IF ANY.

5. COMMENT: NEW ZEALAND COMMUNIST AND LEFT-WING GROUPS
HAVE TAKEN SOMETHING OF A PR HAMMERING IN RECENT WEEKS
OVER THE SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA
AND THE INTER-PARTY BITTERNESS IN INDOCHINA. IT SEEMS
ALMOST CERTAIN THAT KELLY AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE
TRYING TO REGAIN A BIT OF THEIR OLD OFFENSIVE BY
USING THE EAST TIMORESE ISSUE (WHICH HAS SUBSTAN-
TIAL SYMPATHY IN NZ) TO PORTRAY THE US ONCE AGAIN
AS INTERNATIONAL BAD BOYS. SELDEN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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